

manding ground in its vicinity, renders it impossible to suggest any defences that could give equal protection to all parts.

The defences now existing consist of an old earthwork, containing two blockhouses and other wooden buildings, situated at the western extremity of the town. An earthen battery for six 68-pounder guns has been recently constructed on the lake face of this work, to command the western entrance of the harbour. An open earthwork for two guns has also been thrown up, about 1,000 yards farther west, for the same object.

The "New Barracks" are of stone, surrounded by a weak palisading on the three land sides, but entirely open to the lake, and cannot be considered of any importance in a defensive point of view.

56. The harbour is now in process of alteration from natural causes, and will in a few years, unless measures are taken to prevent it, be utterly ruined—a breach, now continually increasing, having been formed in the spit of sand which originally enclosed the harbour.

If this entrance or breach is ever confined to certain limits, Toronto harbour will be very valuable in case of naval operations, and should be protected by erecting batteries on each side of the new entrance, or by floating batteries, as well as by a battery on the site of the one already mentioned as lately constructed for the protection of the western entrance; but, if this breach is not so confined, Toronto harbour cannot be considered of sufficient importance to require any military defence.

57. The old fort is now surrounded by buildings connected with the railway, and should be removed. The two-gun battery to the west of it should also be dismantled.

A regular work, capable of containing the magazines and stores necessary for this portion of the country, and to afford a place of deposit for the valuables of the city, as well as to protect the town from insult by predatory bands, should be erected on the site of the New Barracks, the buildings of which could be, to a certain extent, utilized for the purpose.

58. Port Hope is a point of considerable importance. The harbour admits vessels drawing 10 feet of water. The Grand Trunk Railway crosses the valley at the head of the harbour by a large viaduct, which it would be necessary to protect in case of war, and the terminus of the Peterborough Railway is in the town.

The country in the vicinity, and for some miles to the north of it, is rich and highly cultivated, and great resources could be drawn from it.

In the event of war, it will therefore be desirable to erect defensive works here. The banks of the lake on each side of the harbour are high, and afford good sites for batteries, and a work to mount twelve guns should be projected, to occupy the high ground to the west of the town.

These sites should be acquired without delay.

59. The accompanying tabular statement shows the works proposed for the defence of the Toronto district, with an approximate estimate of the expense.

Toronto. Existing defences.

Toronto harbour.

If lately formed breach confined to certain limits defensive works required or floating batteries.

Old fort and two-gun battery to be removed.

Permanent work required on site of New Barracks.

Port Hope.

Temporary works.

Sites should be acquired.